

BOROUGH OF PONTEFRAC T

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1947

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Pontefract.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration a Report on the Health of the Borough during the year 1947.

The Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector dealing with the Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough, Housing and the Inspection and Supervision of Food supplies is complementary to this Report.

P A R T O F E

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area of the Borough : 4,865 acres.

Registrar-General's estimate of civilian population : 21,500

Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1947) according to
Rate Books : 5,684

Rateable Value : £130,645 (1946 : £128,248)

Sum represented by penny rate : £517 (1946 : £512)

Vital Statistics -

<u>Live Births</u>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	..	305	234	539
Illegitimate	..	10	12	22
Total	..	<u>315</u>	<u>246</u>	<u>561</u>

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population : 26.1

Percentage of illegitimate births : 3.92

<u>Still-births</u>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	..	7	5	12
Illegitimate	..	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	..	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>12</u>

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) : 20.9

Rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population : .56

<u>Deaths :</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
All age groups	114	103	217
<u>Infants under 1 year :</u>			
Legitimate	13	11	24
Illegitimate	3	1	4
Total	<u>16</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>28</u>
<u>Maternal deaths</u> -		0	

Death Rates :

General rate per 1,000 population : 10.1
 All infants per 1,000 live births : 50
 Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births : 45
 Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births : 182
 Maternal deaths per 1,000 live and still births : 0

The principal causes of death are set out in the following table :

TABLE I

Causes of Death	Male	Female	Total
Whooping Cough	1	-	1
Tuberculosis, pulmonary	3	2	5
Tuberculosis, non-pulmonary	1	1	2
Syphilitic diseases	1	1	2
Influenza	1	-	1
Cancer	12	18	30
Diabetes	-	2	2
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	7	19	26
Heart Diseases	35	26	61
Other diseases of circulatory system	1	1	2
Bronchitis	17	10	27
Pneumonia	3	5	8
Other respiratory diseases	1	-	1
Ulcer of the stomach or duodenum	1	-	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	6	3	9
Appendicitis	-	2	2
Other digestive diseases	2	1	3
Nephritis	4	1	5
Premature Birth	5	3	8
Congenital causes	2	2	4
Suicide	1	1	2
Road traffic accidents	-	1	1
Other violent causes	2	-	2
All other causes	8	4	12
Totals	114	103	217

The number of deaths registered during the year was 217, 9 less than in the previous year: this yields a death rate of 10.1 per thousand of the estimated civilian population, as against a figure of 10.7 for the previous year. The rate for England and Wales is 12.0. The improvement in the local rate during the past decade is shown clearly by the following groupings :-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>
1938 - 1940	13.1
1941 - 1943	12.2
1944 - 1946	10.8
1947	10.1

Heart disease again provides the highest death rate for individual causes, 61 deaths having occurred, a reduction of 3 on the previous year. Cancer was recorded as the cause of death in 30 cases, 2 less than in 1946. Intra-cranial vascular lesions caused 26 deaths, a reduction of 5.

Diseases of the respiratory system were responsible for 36 deaths, an increase of 8 on the previous annual figure : this increase was accounted for by an increase of 12 deaths due to bronchitis, offset by a decrease of 4 deaths due to other respiratory disorders.

Infective diseases caused 11 deaths, 3 less than in 1946: 7 of these were classified to tuberculosis as against 10 in the previous year. Deaths from violent causes numbered 5, half the number recorded last year, and included 2 suicides. Road accidents fell from 5 to 1.

Infant Mortality

The infant mortality rate for 1947 is 50 and the rate for England and Wales is 41.

The following Tables give causes of infant deaths during 1947 classified into age-groups, and months of incidence.

TABLE II

Causes of Death	Age-groups								All ages under 1 year		
	Under 1 Wk.	1-2 Wks	2-3 Wks	3-4 Wks	1-3 Mths	3-6 Mths	6-9 Mths	9-12 Mths	M.	F.	Tot.
Bronchitis	1									1	1
Pneumonia					2	2	1		2	3	5
Other Respiratory Diseases						1			1	-	1
Gastro-enteritis				1	1	2	2	3	6	3	9
Prematurity	4	2	2						5	3	8
Congenital malformation	2	1				1			2	2	4
TOTALS	7	3	2	1	3	6	3	3	16	12	28

Comparison of Pontefract Borough Statistics with West
Riding Urban Districts, West Riding Administrative County
and England and Wales.

	Pontefract Borough District	Aggregate West Rid- ing Urban Districts	West Riding Admin. County	England and Wales (Provision- al figures)
BIRTH RATE (Per 1,000 estimated population)	26.1	21.0	21.5	20.0
DEATH RATES :- (All per 1,000 estimated population)				
All Causes	10.1	12.7	12.3	12.0
Zymotic Diseases (seven principal) *	0.47	0.16	0.16	**
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	0.23	0.38	0.39	0.47
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.08
Respiratory Diseases \bar{I} (excluding tuberculosis of respiratory system)	1.67	1.41	1.37	**
Cancer	1.40	1.87	1.80	1.85
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	2.93	4.23	3.98	**
INFANT MORTALITY (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	50	44	45	41
DIARRHOEA (Deaths in infants under 2 years of age per 1,000 live births)	16.04	5.17	5.31	5.8
MATERNAL MORTALITY (Deaths of Mothers in childbirth per 1,000 live and still births)				
Puerperal Sepsis	-	0.24	0.21	0.26
Other Causes	-	0.88	1.07	0.91
Total	-	1.12	1.28	1.17

TABLE III

Causes of Death	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Tot.
Bronchitis			1										1
Pneumonia	1					1						3	5
Other respiratory diseases												1	1
Gastro-enteritis			1			3		1	1	2	1		9
Prematurity		2		1	1					2	1	1	8
Congenital malformation	1			2							1		4
TOTALS	2	2	2	3	1	4	-	1	1	4	3	5	28

P A R T T W O

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Health Visiting

In November 1945 it was agreed by the Council that the Health Visiting Staff should consist of two whole-time visitors: prior to that date the equivalent of whole-time services devoted to health visiting and attendance at the Child Welfare Centre was 1½ - one health visitor also acting as school nurse half-time. Throughout 1947 the Corporation had only one health visitor; and assistance was given by a State Registered Nurse employed on a half-time basis. No health visiting is done by voluntary agencies. The number of visits paid by the Corporation's staff were as follows :-

	<u>First Visits</u>	<u>Total Visits</u>
To expectant mothers	148	331
To children under 1 year	650	3,001
To children 1 to 5 years		5,321

The Welfare Centre

Child Welfare Clinics were held weekly, and attendances were as follows :-

Total number of children under five years of age who first attended at the Centre during the year, and who, on the date of their first attendance were :-

Under 1 year of age	440
Over 1 year of age	21
Total	461, an increase of 26 on last year.

Total number of children under five years of age who attended at the Centre during the year, and who, at the end of the year were :-

Under 1 year of age	383
Over 1 year of age	269
Total	652, an increase of 74 on last year.

Total number of attendances at the Centre made by children under five years of age, 6,212; 188 less than last year.

Thanks are due to the Ladies Voluntary Committee for the valuable services rendered to the Centre during the year. I should like to take this opportunity of expressing the hope that their good work will continue despite the changes entailed by the coming into operation of the new Health Act. The need for their services is as great as ever and their cessation would throw a great burden upon an already over-loaded nursing staff.

An Ante-Natal Clinic is held weekly, and during the year under review 440 expectant mothers attended at the Clinic. Although no separate post-natal clinic has been established, 72 cases were given post-natal examination.

The following proprietary preparations were available at cost price (free in necessitous cases) to all women attending the Clinics :-

Ostermilk (Nos.1 and 2)	Glucodin
Humanised Trufood	Bomax
Cow and Gate	Virol
Lactogol	Virolax
Ovaltine	Farex
	Adexolin

The following were distributed free of charge :-

I.C.D. Tablets
Ferrous Sulphate Tablets
Viteolin Tablets

Maternity

During the year, 38 women were sent to the Maternity Hospital at Leeds, 6 to Hazlewood Castle Maternity Home, 35 to Walton Hall Maternity Home and 2 to the County Institution, Wakefield; but in the big majority of normal cases domiciliary arrangements were made. The County Council is the Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives Acts, and details of births notified by the local midwives and others are forwarded weekly to that Authority.

The following analysis of notifications of birth received during 1947, adjusted by transferred notifications, indicates how the various maternity services and institutions were used.

1. No. of births occurring in the Borough :

(a) Pontefract residents :

Domiciliary cases -

Notified by Doctors	3
Notified by Midwives	356

Institutional cases -

Pontefract Nursing Home	56
County Institution	
Pontefract	7

<u>Total</u>	<u>422</u>
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(b) Outward transfers

Pontefract Nursing Home	74
County Institution	
Pontefract	31
Relations (domiciliary cases)	4

<u>Total</u>	<u>109</u>
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2. No. of inward transfers:

Maternity Hospital at Leeds	42
Castleford Maternity Home	17
County Institution Wakefield	2
Walton Hall Maternity Home	65
Hazlewood Castle Maternity Home	6
Willows Nursing Home, Leeds	1
St. Mary's Leeds	1
Relations	5

Total 139

Nursery Provision for Children under five

The following Schemes were in operation throughout the year :-

1. Registered Guardians

At the close of the year there were 4 daily guardians on the register. Each guardian had the care of one child.

2. Sitters-in

This is a voluntary scheme, and although several people were put in touch with sitters-in registered with the Council, little is known of the extent to which the Service was used, for, after introductions had been made, any further arrangements were made direct by parent and sitters-in.

3. Afternoon Creche

This was held at Beechwood Bungalow. There were 4 sessions per week, and the average attendance per session was 15. Provision was made for toddlers only.

Care of Premature Infants

24 Premature Babies were notified during the year. In each case a special investigation was made, and help given as required. In hospital cases there was close liaison between Hospital and Welfare Authorities.

The whole question of premature infants is one which is causing much concern at the present time and I hope in my next Annual Report to give details of a comprehensive scheme for dealing with this problem.

P A R T T H R E E

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

596 cases of disease were notified during 1947, an increase of 306 on the previous year's figure. This was due to an epidemic of measles, extending from March to August, during which period 299 cases were notified. Only 38 cases of measles had been notified in the previous year. Whooping Cough was also specially prevalent during the first half of the year, 119 cases being notified. This figure, however, was a decrease of 17 on the 1946 incidence.

Scarlet fever, ophthalmia neonatorum and chickenpox showed increases, and diphtheria, acute pneumonia and puerperal pyrexia decreases on the previous year's figures. The low incidence of diphtheria, one case, is undoubtedly due to the protection given to a large part of the child population by immunisation.

/ During

During 1947 this work was continued: 420 children completed a full course of primary immunisation, and 41 children were given a reinforcing injection. The following Table gives incidence of the disease, deaths, and percentage of child population immunised each year since 1942.

TABLE IV

Year	No. of cases of diphtheria	No. of deaths due to diphtheria	Percentage of child population immunised against diphtheria	
			Under 5 yrs.	Over 5 yrs.
1942	55	3	11.9	48.6
1943	52	2	30.5	74.4
1944	20	1	29.1	78.7
1945	5	0	42.0	68.7
1946	4	1 (adult)	66.3	76.2
1947	1	0	51.1	76.5

Although the above figures show that much good work has been done, we cannot rest satisfied until at least 75% of children under 1 year have been immunised, as only by so doing is there real prospect of the disease being finally stamped out.

During July and August seven cases of acute poliomyelitis and two cases of acute polio-encephalitis were notified. All cases were removed to hospital. There were no deaths.

The following table gives particulars of the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) among the civilian population.

TABLE V

Disease	Total notified cases	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	45	45	0
Whooping Cough	119	0	1
Measles	299	0	0
Diphtheria	1	1	0
Pneumonia	13	0	3
Erysipelas	7	0	0
Puerperal pyrexia	3	3	0
Ophthalmia neonatorum	11	0	0
Acute poliomyelitis	7	7	0
Acute polio-encephalitis	2	2	0
Chickenpox	89	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS

In the following table new cases and mortality are classified.

TABLE VI

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 and under 15	-	2	1	1	-	-	1	-
15 and under 25	3	3	1	1	-	-	-	1
25 and under 35	3	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
35 and under 45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 and under 55	2	1	-	-	-	2	-	-
55 and under 65	4	1	-	-	4	-	-	-
65 and over	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	15	9	4	3	5	2	1	1

The following table summarises particulars contained in the register of tuberculous persons.

TABLE VII

Number of cases in Register	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Total in Register
	M	F	M	F	
At the commencement of 1947	77	48	31	25	181
Notified under Regulations of 1930 for the first time during 1947	15	9	4	3	31
Removed during 1947	7	2	3	3	15
At the end of 1947	85	55	32	25	197

The reasons for removal of cases from the register are given in the following table.

TABLE VIII

Entries relating to -	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Totals
	M	F	M	F	
Persons who have died	5	2	1	1	9
Persons certified by the medical practitioner in attendance to have recovered	1	-	1	1	3
Persons who have ceased to reside permanently in the district	1	-	1	1	3
Totals	7	2	3	3	15

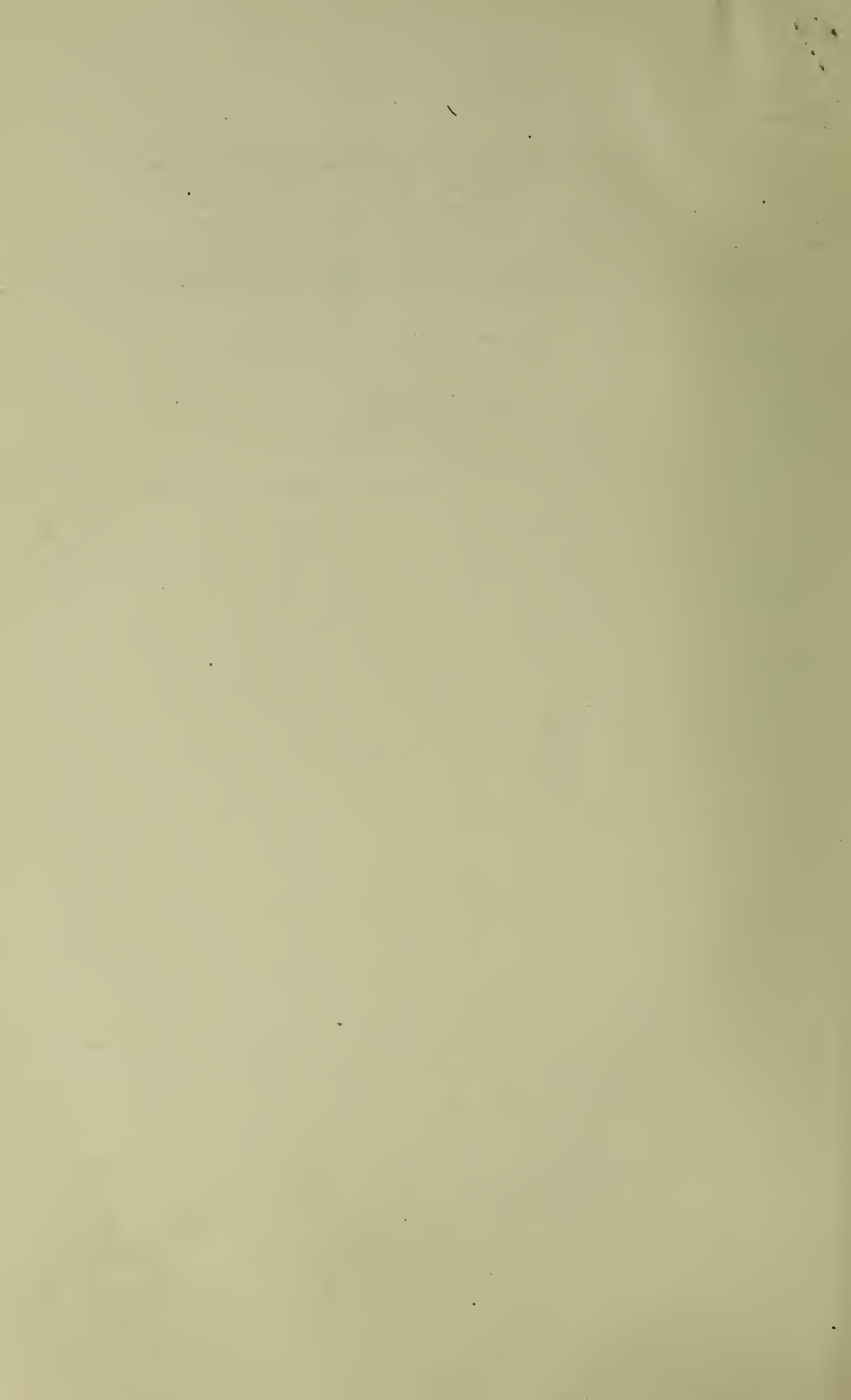
Scabies

Facilities for the out-patient treatment of scabies are provided at the School Clinic, Headlands Road, Pontefract and at the Baghill Isolation Hospital. This provision has proved adequate for dealing with all cases occurring amongst women and children. ; Adult males are normally advised to have domiciliary treatment; but where such is likely to prove inadequate, the patient can be admitted to a County Institution in accordance with an arrangement made with the County Council.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

JOHN F. FRASER,

Medical Officer of Health.



BOROUGH OF PONTEFRAC T

Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector for the year ended 31st December, 1947.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee,
and the Medical Officer of Health.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you this my Tenth Annual Report on Sanitary Administration in the Borough. The subject matter of the Report is dealt with under the following headings:-

1. Sanitary Circumstances.
 - (1) Water Supplies.
 - (2) Swimming Baths: Sanitary Condition of Water.
 - (3) General Sanitation and Abatement of Nuisances.
 - (4) Atmospheric Pollution.
 - (5) Welfare of Workers in Factories, Workplaces and Shops.
 - (6) Rodent Control.
2. Housing.
 - (1) General Conditions and Overcrowding.
 - (2) Inspection, Repair and Clearance of Unfit Houses.
 - (3) Eradication of Verminous Conditions.
3. Food and Food Processes.
 - (1) Meat Supply.
 - (2) Milk Supply.
 - (3) Manufacture and Sale of Ice-Cream.
 - (4) Other Foods.
 - (5) Food Premises.
4. Summarised Statement of Inspections made and Notices served.
 - (1) Nature and number of Inspections made.
 - (2) Number of Notices served, and Results.

PART ONE

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Water Supply

A sufficient and constant supply of wholesome water was distributed throughout the district by the Corporation during the year, the supply for domestic use being of the order of 26 gallons per head per day.

The supply was sampled regularly for both chemical analysis and bacteriological examination. 47 samples of chlorinated water going into supply were submitted to bacteriological examination: 46 were reported upon as Class 1 waters and one fell into Class 2.

Thirty-one samples of raw waters taken from source were classified as follows:

Source of raw water	No. of Samples falling into the Classes named:				Total samples taken
	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	
Roall	5	2	4	0	11
Eggborough	8	1	1	0	10
Tanshelf	7	1	2	0	10

Thirteen samples were submitted to chemical analysis, and the following Table gives typical results:

Parts per 100,000	Results of Analysis of Samples taken -			
	At source of supply			From service pipe (mixed supply)
	Roall	Eggborough	Tanshelf	
Total solids	46.0	27.0	104.0	51.0
Chloride	2.8	1.8	5.4	3.4
Nitrite	-	-	-	-
Nitrate	0.31	0.21	0.43	0.24
Free ammonia	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002
Albuminoid ammonia	0.002	0.002	0.004	0.002
Poisonous metals	-	-	-	-
Hardness:				
Permanent	3.2	2.2	21.2	4.7
Temporary	18.0	12.0	27.4	20.2
Total	21.2	14.2	48.6	24.9

These chemical data indicate waters of good organic quality. Tanshelf water is very hard: during 1947 it constituted only 2% of the total supply, but its effect on samples of mixed waters was appreciable, the total hardness of these samples varying between 23 and 30. It is anticipated that this auxiliary source will be no longer used when the proposed works at Heck are completed. None of the Corporation's waters is plumbo-solvent. The pH values of the mixed supply have ranged from 7.4 to 7.6.

Only one house in the Borough is not connected to the public supply. These premises are well away from the Corporation's main, and are served by a private well. Only nine houses in the Borough are served by outside stand-pipes. These properties were scheduled in 1939 for clearance under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1936, but clearance was held up on the outbreak of war. The position may be tabulated as follows:

	<u>No. of dwellinghouses</u>	<u>Estimated Population</u>
(1) Supplied from public main:		
(a) Direct to houses	5,674	21,470
(b) By means of stand-pipes	9	27
(2) Supplied from private source	1	3

Swimming Baths. Sanitary Condition of Water.

Throughout the season a weekly sample of water was taken from the large swim, and in every case the bacteriological condition of the water was satisfactory: in no sample was presumptive B.Coli. found in 100 ml. water, and the Eijkman Test, to which 30% of the samples were subjected, gave negative results for faecal B.Coli. in 100 ml. water.

The weekly sample was also submitted to chemical examination for 'free chlorine content' and 'pH value'. Up to and including the month of July the mean 'free chlorine content' reading was 0.44 parts per million, with a standard deviation of 0.31. The Ministry's Standard is between 0.2 to 0.5 parts per million; but this was stepped up to a minimum of 0.5 in August, as a measure against the spread of acute poliomyelitis, and all samples after that date conformed to the new standard.

Throughout the season pH values ranged from 6.8 to 8.0, with an arithmetic mean of 7.3, which was a little lower than the official minimum standard of 7.6. Only 14% of the samples examined reached this minimum standard as against 36% in 1945 and 1946. Examinations for pH value at the time of sampling have given better results: this is being investigated.

General Sanitation and Abatement of Nuisances.

All built-up areas in the Borough are sewered, and only 35 houses are not connected to sewers. 99.7% of the closets are on the water-carriage system: only 11 - that is 5 less than in 1946 - of the privy-midden type remain; these being isolated cases where a sewer is not available.

So far as is known there are no dry-ashpits in use; all properties are served with metal dustbins of approved specification. The Council have not used the power given by the Public Health Act, 1936, to inaugurate a scheme for the public ownership of dustbins. Whatever may be the advantages or disadvantages of such a scheme, there is little likelihood of any local authority taking on this responsibility at the present time, the maximum permissible rent that can be charged being only 2s.6d. per annum per bin.

269 nuisances (including 'statutory nuisances' and other insanitary conditions referred to in the Public Health Act as 'nuisances') were found during the year and 9 were outstanding from 1946 giving a total of 278 needing abatement. (These figures do not include housing defects dealt with under the Housing Act.) The fact that 77 of these had not been abated by the end of the year is indicative of the difficulties experienced generally in getting repair and maintenance work done. Most property owners were as anxious as the writer to see the completion of urgent works, but in some cases had to wait months before the contractor concerned was able to give attention. The numbers of inspections made and notices served are included in Part 4 of the Report.

The offensive trades established in the Borough were inspected regularly, and for the most part were conducted without nuisance. One firm, at least, was short of fuel for considerable periods, and this resulted in nuisance on several occasions. As the result of representations made by the Department, the Ministry of Fuel and Power subsequently improved the supply in question.

Atmospheric Pollution.

Thomas Dugdale in his 'England and Wales Delineated' says of Pontefract '... the air is particularly pure and salubrious! This may have been true when written: but the population has increased some 13,000 since that time; housing estates and industrial premises have gradually taken the place of green fields, and both domestic firegrates and industrial plant, incapable of providing the requirements for the complete combustion of coal, have contributed more or less equally to the present degree of pollution. A deposit gauge, situated centrally, was exposed throughout 1947, to collect soot and other impurities from the atmosphere and a total deposit of 202 tons per square mile was recorded. 115 tons represented insoluble matter, 41 tons of which was combustible; 3 tons of this latter figure being 'tarry' matter, mainly from domestic chimneys.

The problem of abatement may be considered under two heads: (1) Industrial smoke, and (2) Domestic smoke. I have endeavoured to obtain improvements in industrial plant wherever possible, and have had some measure of success; but improvements in plant are invariably followed by a de-grading of the fuel supplied, which tends to minimise the effectiveness of new plant. In one case a 'grit nuisance' recurred periodically, due largely to inferior fuel supply.

In addition to numerous casual observations and inspections of boiler plant, 62 formal thirty-minute observations were made; and in 5 cases there was excessive emission of black smoke. Statutory action in the existing circumstances seemed impracticable, and cautions were given.

The Report of the Fuel and Power Advisory Council presented to Parliament in March 1946 reads: 'The damage done by domestic smoke is estimated at no less than £20 millions per annum'. It is not surprising, therefore, that the Advisory Council included in its list of objectives: 'To abolish the pollution of the atmosphere from domestic sources by soot and tar, and to reduce to the lowest practicable limit the emission of sulphurous gases'. The Corporation have furthered the cause of domestic smoke abatement by providing in the houses being built on the Chequerfield Estate - (a) alternate facilities for cooking by gas, and (b) Coal space-heating in one bedroom only. Would a suggestion that some new houses be fitted with multi-fuel appliances, be considered practicable in a coal-producing and coal-burning district?

Concluding this section of the Report I would say that coal-rationing and industrial plant improvements have reduced pollution during recent years, and the following comparative figures support this contention. By continuing to press for improvement in both the industrial and the domestic problem, it is hoped that future records will show a steady decline in 'smoke' nuisance.

Period	Total Deposit (Tons per square mile)	'Tarry' Matter
12 months ended June, 1940	262	5.1
12 months ended December, 1947	202	3.1

Factories, Workplaces and Shops.

Arrangements for the health and comfort of workers in their places of employment have been given considerable attention during the year. The routine inspection of factories has been recommenced after a break due to the war: the Shops Register has been brought up to date, and all shops have been visited to ascertain to which premises the health provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, apply.

The term 'factory' as used in the Factories Act, 1937, includes all premises where articles are made, altered or repaired for purposes of gain. There are 95 such premises on the Factory Register, at 79 of which mechanical power is used. 70 inspections were made during 1947; in 23 cases defects were found, and in 20 of these a remedy was provided during the year. The means of escape in case of fire were inspected at the premises to which section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937, applies, and were found to be satisfactory and in accordance with the Certificates granted by the Council. Two certificates were issued.

The term 'workplace' as used in the Public Health Act, 1936, embraces offices, restaurant kitchens and most other premises in which persons are employed; but excludes domestic premises, factories and (except for 'overcrowding' purposes) shops to which the Shops Act, 1934, applies. Staff welfare in such places, generally, has tended to lag behind factory welfare work. Improvements have been obtained in isolated cases, but it is hoped to deal with this matter on a comprehensive scale in the near future.

The term 'shop' includes warehouses used in connection with wholesale or retail trade, refreshment houses, lending libraries and hairdressing establishments. There are 377 shop premises on the Register, and the Shops Act, 1934, applies to 234 of these. During the year a start was made on bringing up to a modern standard the welfare arrangements in such premises. Most of the inspectorial work in connection with welfare of staff at factories, workplaces or shops where food is handled, is done parallel with Food and Drugs Act inspections, referred to later in this Report.

Rodent Control.

Quite apart from the role played by rats and mice in the spread of disease, the prevention of food wastage by these pests again provided a major reason for the continued campaign against them. Throughout the year two workers were engaged on the duties of searching for infestation and stamping it out wherever found. Rodent Control is not a static problem, and success has necessarily been temporary in certain cases: Pontefract is an old Borough which offers a maximum potential harbourage for rats; furthermore, the town is at the centre of a considerable belt of agricultural land. It is considered, however, that the position in Pontefract at December, 1947, was a great improvement on that of a year ago.

The essence of effective work being the systematic discovery and elimination of rat colonies, rather than the treatment of isolated infestations, it was in this direction that the work developed during the year. The following Table gives the number and degree of surface infestations dealt with. It should be pointed out that the term 'Treatment' used in the Table comprises prebaiting with unpoisoned bait on four successive days, removing

excess poison on the sixth day, and post-baiting on three successive days a fortnight later to test the efficiency of the treatment.

Degree of Infestation	No. of Infestations cleared	No. of these Infestations cleared after 1,2,3 or 4 Treatments.				Total No. of Treatments given
		1	2	3	4	
Reservoir (rat population of over 200)	5		3		2	14
Major (20 - 200)	67	8	43	4	12	154
Minor (under 20)	90	53	28	9		136
Totals	162	61	74	13	14	304

The sewers received 'maintenance' treatments at the beginning and end of the year. The Summer treatment given in 1945 and 1946 was not repeated in 1947 as 'vertical block control' methods had been introduced in April, involving localised sewer treatments at the time and in the vicinity of major surface treatments. The following Table gives results of sewer treatments since 1945, and indicates general improvement since that date. On the official Standards laid down the infestation in the sewers during the year is 'limited in extent' (only 11% 'takes') and of 'small intensity' (only 2% complete 'takes'). This combination of percentages is the smallest recorded.

Treatment		Percentage of 'Prebait takes'	
No.	Date	Total 'takes'	Complete 'takes'
1	1945: January	29%	4%
2	June	18%	13%
3	1946: February	17%	7%
4	June	15%	2%
5	1947: January	11%	6%
6	December	11%	2%

All occupiers (except occupiers of dwellinghouses in certain cases where Government grant covered the cost) were charged for the disinfection work done on their premises; and full advantage was taken of Grant-Aid, as the following Table shows.

Financial Year	Total Expenditure			Income								
				From Occupiers re-charged			Government Grant			Total		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1944-5	417	6	11	330	1	5	168	18	9	499	0	2
1945-6	431	5	10	341	16	10	84	2	0	425	18	10
1946-7	631	15	2	574	16	0	131	11	0	706	7	0
1947-8	650	11	6	420	3	9	225	7	9	645	11	6

The Corporation is a member of the Rodent Control Planning and Advisory Committee (Group No.11) which comprises representatives of seven local authorities in this area, and whose functions are to secure in connection with rodent control adequate co-ordination and uniformity of activity throughout the area served. This Committee has had four meetings during the period under review and useful work has been done.

PART TWO

HOUSING

General Conditions and Overcrowding.

House building had recommenced during 1946, and by the beginning of the year reviewed the erection of 89 houses had been completed. During 1947 a further 187 houses became ready for occupation - 158 built by the Corporation and 29 privately. This gives a total of 276 erected since the war and up to 31st December, 1947.

The Council's Scheme for the Selection of Tenants recognises 'need' as the only grounds for rehousing, and records of lettings indicate that no less than 66 cases of statutory overcrowding were abated by the Council during the year; which figure represents 36% of lettings. Overcrowding statistics are as follows.

No. of cases of statutory overcrowding on register at 31st December, 1946.	82
--	----

No. of new cases added to register during 1947.	13
---	----

No. of cases resolved during 1947.	
(a) By the Corporation rehousing the families concerned.	66

(b) By other means	16
--------------------	----

Total	82
-------	----

No. of cases of statutory overcrowding on register at 31st December, 1947.	13
--	----

The legal standard of overcrowding is recognised as a very low one, and when such cases have been dealt with there remain many cases of 'near overcrowding'. The Council have adopted a 'bedroom' standard of overcrowding which takes sex-segregation into consideration, and 72 cases

Inspection, Repair and Clearance of Unfit Houses.

The Housing Act, 1936, envisages house-to-house inspection of property: but it would be impossible under present conditions to obtain materials and labour in sufficient quantities to deal with defective housing conditions in this systematic manner. The Department, in housing repair matters, functions following complaint, or where a visit paid to premises for some other purpose reveals an urgent need for housing repairs. Particulars of inspections made and notices served will be found in Part 4 of the Report.

During the year 23 houses were closed, these being unfit for habitation and not repairable at reasonable cost. The Corporation rehoused 22 of the tenants occupying these houses. In the present acute housing shortage there is reluctance on the part of the Corporation to reduce even slightly the town's housing accommodation; but in certain cases the circumstances are such that no alternative action can be contemplated.

In March, 1947, the Minister of Health, referring to the recommendations of the Sub-Committee of the Central Housing Advisory Committee set up to consider Standards of Fitness of houses, said it was his desire to make the recommendations effective as soon as possible. These propose the establishment of two standards of fitness:

1. A 'target' standard, which will secure conditions that can be regarded as satisfactory for many years to come; and
2. A statutory minimum standard, any house falling below which would be regarded as unfit for habitation.

Knowing the standards the Government have in mind has assisted materially in dealing with certain classes of property.

Eradication of Verminous Conditions.

The insecticides 'D.D.T.' and 'Gammexane' have proved to be effective insecticides, and have been used successfully in dealing with infestations. In only 9 cases was vermin reported in Corporation houses. Mild cases, these were quickly cleared up at little expense.

The House Management Committee has continued its practice of giving disinfection treatment to furniture which is verminous or likely to be verminous, before allowing otherwise suitable applicants to take up occupation of new accommodation on Corporation Estates. The Corporation's Contractors carry out the removal, and disinfect with hydrogen cyanide before unloading. The tenant contributes towards the removal expenses. 38 such disinfections were done during the year.

PART THREE

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Meat Supply

The Ministry of Food continued to use the Abattoir at Newtown as a centre for the preparation of meat for distribution to retailers in the Borough and surrounding districts, covering a population of 52,000. The whole of the meat slaughtered at the Abattoir was inspected by Officers of the Department.

The numbers of carcasses examined during the year were:-

Beasts:	Cows	..	494
	Others	..	1,474
Calves		..	1,602
Sheep		..	5,053
Pigs		..	94

the total number being 8,717.

The numbers of carcasses found to be unfit for human consumption were:-

	<u>Tuberculosis</u>	<u>Other conditions</u>	<u>Total</u>
Beasts: Cows	39	9	48
Others	18	4	22
Calves	0	8	8
Sheep	-	16	16
Pigs	0	2	2
	<u>57</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>96</u>

75 parts of carcasses, and 3,337 organs and parts were found to be unfit.

A total weight of 31 tons, 5 cwts., 3 qtrs., 13 lbs., of meat was condemned, 20 tons, 15 cwts., 2 qtrs., 17 lbs., of which amount was accounted for by tuberculosis. It is estimated that 44% of the cows and 12% of other bovines, excluding calves, showed lesions of disease. The condemnations classified above as 'Other conditions' included septicaemia, dropsy, fever, Johne's disease, jaundice, and medicine taint.

Central slaughtering is now well established, and it would be a retrograde step to re-open private slaughterhouses. The Corporation are prepared, given certain assurances by the Ministerial Departments concerned, to erect a Public Abattoir at the earliest possible date; but the matter is in abeyance awaiting the announcement of Government policy on slaughtering.

Transport and handling of meat were given due attention. Occasional violations of articles 21 of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, occurred; informal action was taken, and the conditions complained of were rectified.

Milk Supply.

Milk produced locally forms a very small proportion of the total quantity of milk retailed in the Borough. At the present time some 130 dairy cattle are kept, and the bulk of our milk supply comes from sources considerable distances away. The number of registered producers in the area is 12; and there are 8 wholesale traders and 14 retailers. The 15 cowsheds have been inspected at intervals and with one exception conditions, generally, were satisfactory. In one case the producer ceased production rather than carry out the extensive structural improvements required. Three producers held 'Accredited' Licences, one newly licensed in 1947, and a high standard of cleanliness was maintained at these premises. Samples from producers and retailers in the Borough have been submitted to the methylene blue test with results reaching or closely approximating to 'accredited' standard.

One licence is in force authorising the use of the designation 'Pasteurised' in relation to milk treated by a pasteurising process at premises in the Borough. The plant, which is of the High-Temperature-Short-Time type, was installed in May, 1946, and satisfies the conditions prescribed by the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations. 40 samples were taken during 1947 for submission to the statutory tests: (1) the phosphatase test, designed to establish that the milk has been adequately heat treated, and (2) the methylene blue test, a test of keeping quality. No sample was reported upon adversely.

Ice-Cream.

The year was a significant one so far as the control of this commodity is concerned: the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947, came into operation in May, providing important new machinery for controlling the manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream. The Regulations gave the lead for a thorough investigation into the conditions of manufacture: each manufacturer in the Borough was given notice to appear before the Health Committee, and was informed of the improved standard for premises, which had been adopted by them, and which was to operate from January, 1947. Only two of the persons interviewed were prepared to conform to the high standard required by the Committee; the remainder ceased to manufacture.

No test has been devised which is considered satisfactory for use as a statutory test for measuring the bacteriological quality of ice-cream; but the methylene blue test has been introduced for the guidance of public health officers, and provisionally divides ice-cream into four Grades. Tables I and II overleaf analyse the results of 57 samples. Although the significance of these results should not be exaggerated

(Text continued on page 12)

Table I

Samples (all hot mix) classified according to Grade

Grade	Manufactured in the Borough			Manufactured outside the Borough			All Samples		
	Taken from Factory or Shop	Taken from Vehicle		Taken from Factory or Shop	Taken from Vehicle		Taken from Vehicle		Total
		With protected sides	Without such protection		With protected sides	Without such protection	Total	From Factory or Shop	
1	12	3	0	3		3	6	15	21
2	9	2	1	1		2	3	10	15
3	6	4	1	3	Nil	7	10	9	21
4	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0
Totals	27	9	2	7		12	19	34	57

Table II

Samples classified according to Ministry's suggested Standard.

Required Standard	% samples falling into the given Grades									
	All Samples taken	Samples manufactured in Borough					Samples manufactured outside Borough			
		From Factory or Shop	Taken from Vehicle			Total	From Factory or Shop	Taken from Vehicle		Total
			With protected sides	Without such protection	With protected sides			Without such protection		
About 50% should fall into Grade 1	%	%	%	%	%	%		%	%	
About 80% should fall into Grades 1 & 2	37	44	33	0	25	43	Nil	25	31	
Not more than 20% should fall into Grade 3	63	78	66	50	71	57		42	48	
None should fall into Grade 4	37	22	44	50	29	43		58	52	
	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	

in view of a limited sampling period of two months, and of the possibility of contamination during sampling - a matter receiving attention at the time of writing - the following inferences could be drawn:- (1) There is need for considerably improved conditions of manufacture and sale, and (2) The bacterial contamination of ice-cream sold from open vehicles is greater than that sold from enclosed units.

The Committee had already taken steps to remedy (1) above, and with regard to (2) they resolved that from January, 1948, ice-cream sold in the open in the Borough should (for the purpose of Article 5 of the Regulations) be considered as not being protected from dirt, dust or other contamination, unless it had been pre-packed or, alternatively, was sold from a suitably enclosed sales unit. The effect of this action should become apparent in the 1948 sampling results.

Other Foods.

The continued need to prevent food wastage resulted in much activity in the inspection of 'other foods'. Traders call in your Inspectors to examine food which prior to the war they would have rejected without inspection. Also, regarding rationed goods, the retailer or wholesaler requires the certificate of the local authority before he can dispose of unfit foodstuffs.

Supervision of Food Premises.

The statistics in Part 4 of this report indicate considerable activity in the inspection of food factories, shops and warehouses. Any contraventions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1926 to 1943, and the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, were noted, and remedial measures taken. There are over 200 premises in the Borough where food is manufactured, prepared, stored or sold: an inspection of each of these was not possible during the year, but it is hoped to organise a comprehensive scheme of inspection in 1948.

PART FOUR

Statement of Particulars furnished pursuant
to Article 18 of the Sanitary Officers
(Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

(1) Number and nature of inspections made by the Corporation's Sanitary Inspectors and assistant Staff during 1947:

<u>Nature</u>	<u>Number</u>
<u>Public Health Act, 1936.</u>	
Regulated Premises Inspections:	
Common lodging-houses	6
Moveable dwellings and sites	17
Offensive trades	27
Statutory Nuisance Inspections:	
Initial inspections	144
Other inspections	311
Atmospheric Pollution:	
Industrial smoke observations	62
Visits to boiler plant	39
Pollution investigations (deposit and sulphur oxides sampling, etc.)	25
Verminous Infestation Inspections:	
Dwellinghouses - Corporation	99
Private	32
Other premises or articles	110
Infectious disease, etc., Enquiries:	57
General Sanitation and Drainage Inspections:	
Nuisances, not statutory -	
Initial Inspections	125
Other Inspections	208
Other sanitary defects -	
Initial Inspections	159
Other Inspections	188
Water Supplies:	
Sampling - Public supplies	96
Private supplies	16
Swimming bath water	30
Inspections	4
<u>Factories Act, 1937.</u>	
Inspections for Sanitary Conditions:	
Factories with mechanical power	44
Factories without mechanical power	22
Inspections for Means of Escape in case of fire - Initial inspections	4
Re-inspections	16
<u>Shops Act, 1934.</u>	
Total shops visited	270
Inspections of shops to which Act applies - Food shops	99
Others	28

<u>Nature</u>	<u>Number</u>
<u>Rats and Lice (Destruction) Act, 1919.</u>	
Inspections made in course of general survey of district	Not recorded in detail
Inspections of premises listed as 'Particularly liable to infestation'	83
Inspections of Corporation premises	72
Inspections of premises receiving treatment, or on complaint	142
<u>Housing Act, 1936.</u>	
Housing Conditions:	
Inspections for housing defects (excluding Public Health Act inspections)	205
Houses inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations	17
Inspections for compliance with notices (including work in progress)	667
Overcrowding:	
Case investigations	172
Dwellinghouses measured up for 'Permitted Number' data	39
Corporation Housing:	
Investigation of home conditions prior to removal to Corporation houses	190
Miscellaneous enquiries	23
<u>Food and Drugs Act, 1938.</u>	
Meat Inspection:	
Visits to Abattoir for meat inspection	315
Visits to shops, etc., for meat inspection	33
Milk Supplies:	
Investigation of production methods	
Investigation of distribution methods	
Sampling - Graded milks	54
Other milks	29
Ice-Cream:	
Investigations, also under Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations -	
Manufacture	27
Retailing	33
Sampling	57
Other Foods:	
Visits to shops, etc. for food inspection	138
Food Premises Inspections:	
Cowsheds under Milk and Dairies Order	57
Pasteurising plant under Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, etc.	26
Other dairies - Producers	28
Retailers	24
Abattoir and other premises under Public Health (Meat) Regulations	56
Rooms under Food and Drugs Act, section 13	92
Premises under Food and Drugs Act, section 14 - Ice-cream	59
Preserved food, etc.	18
Knackers Yard Inspections	14
<u>Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.</u>	
Investigations into Licensing of Slaughtermen	5
Investigations into slaughter methods	5

(2)

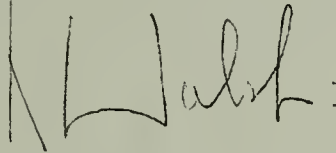
Number of Notices Served and the Result of Service

	No. of Informal Notices						No. of Statutory Notices					
	(a) Outstanding from 1946	(b) Served in 1947	(c) Total of (a) and (b)	(d) Complied with	(e) Statutory notice subsequently served in 1947	(f) Outstanding at end of 1947	(g) Outstanding from 1946	(h) Served in 1947	(i) Total of (g) and (h)	(j) Complied with	(k) Work done by L.A. in default	(l) Outstanding at end of 1947
Act and Section under which or, in the case of informal notices, preliminarily to which, notice was served.												
Public Health Act, 1936:												
Section 39, 44 or 45	4	64	68	60	2	6		17	17	2		15
" 75	21	84	105	105		37	1	1	2	2		
" 93	1	117	118	81		1						
Miscellaneous		6	6	5								
Housing Act, 1936:												
Section 9	9	95	104	25	18	61	2	18	20	5		15
Factories Act, 1937:												
Part One		5	5	3		2						
Rats and Lice (Destruction) Act, 1919:												
Section 5	7	80	87	79		8						

The Department

In October, 1946, the Council agreed on a Staff Establishment of Chief Sanitary Inspector, two Assistant Inspectors, a pupil and two clerks, which it was considered necessary to meet post-war requirements: but at no time during the period under review was this complete staff employed; due mainly to adjustments occasioned by National Service requirements.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,



Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Chief Sanitary Inspector's Office,
Municipal Offices,
Pontefract.

July, 1948.

